

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Huddersfield Open Market Redevelopment

As **Professor of Culture, People and Place** and **Director of the Centre for Cultural Ecologies in Art, Design and Architecture at the University of Huddersfield**, I am offering support for the proposed redevelopment of Huddersfield Open Market and the temporary indoor market on the adjacent site.

I have worked closely with **Kirklees Council's Creative Development Team since 2018**, collaborating on projects that explore how culture, creativity and community life can help shape a thriving town. From this experience, I see the redevelopment of Huddersfield Open Market as an important and very positive step forward for our town centre.

A Market for Everyone

The plans show a clear ambition to create much more than a place of retail. The redeveloped market will offer:

- a mix of food, retail and social spaces
- flexible indoor and outdoor stalls
- areas for cultural activity
- public facilities and improved public space

This transformation will help the market become a **civic, cultural and learning asset**, supporting community wellbeing, creativity and a lively town-centre atmosphere.

Working with Students and Young People

For the past three years, postgraduate students from the University's MA Innovation and Entrepreneurship programme in the School of Arts and Humanities have worked with the Markets Team on ideas for the future of the site. As a live project, this has enabled students to contribute to and engage directly with a key part of Huddersfield's heritage and community life. The market designs, which have been developed with our students, support inclusive public space, skills, student enterprise and town-centre vitality.

Supporting Town-Centre Regeneration

Our Civic University Agreement (at the University of Huddersfield) is committed to supporting the regeneration of Huddersfield through strong partnerships and research-informed placemaking. The market redevelopment aligns closely with this mission. It will:

- strengthen Huddersfield as a place to study, work and live

- support local businesses and independent traders
- add vibrancy to the town centre
- create long-term social and economic benefits

Civic University Agreement - University of Huddersfield

A Strong Link with the university campus.

The market sits next to one of the key gateways to the university campus. As the University continues to develop its facilities, this project will help build a stronger connection between campus and town. It will create new opportunities for students, businesses and local communities to meet, collaborate and share in a lively public space.

Conclusion

The redevelopment of Huddersfield Open Market represents a thoughtful and exciting investment in the town's future. It blends heritage with new ideas, supports local enterprise, and places culture and community at its heart.

I look forward to seeing the market become a vibrant centre of civic life for Huddersfield.